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# NARRATIVES FROM THE WAR

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

"The Listening Post" is the title of a journal the Seventh Canadian Battalion has printed and published in the trenches. It has advertisements as well as editorials and news.

A Montreal nurse writes that she went to a station in France when a Red Cross train was being unloaded. One of the Sisters said to a severely wounded man, "Cheer up, you will be in a nice clean bed soon." "Oh, Sister," he said, "are there really beds?"

A New Brunswick nurse, writing home, said one of her patients had had both hands cut off after being wounded. He longed for a smoke; she procured some cigarettes, and sat by him, putting them between his lips and removing them, until they were finished.

Dr. Richard P. Strong, head of the American Sanitary Commission in Serbia, says that the entire Serbian army and numbers of the people have been vaccinated against cholera and typhus. The spread of typhus in Montenegro had been prevented by adopting energetic sanitary measures.

The *Cologne Gazette* estimates that 4000 iron crosses of the first class have been given since the beginning of the war. Only 87 have gone to soldiers. The others have been given to German princes, ministers, generals and other officers, including admirals.

Many metal artisans and engineers serving in the French artillery devote their leisure moments to carving ornaments from aluminum and copper taken from exploded German shells. The cross of Lorraine, emblem of Joan of Arc, is a favorite ornament for rings.

It is reported from Paris that Mary Davis, a young English nurse, working in the pathological laboratory of the American Ambulance, inoculated herself with the bacilli isolated from a case of gas-gangrene. She wished to demonstrate the efficacy of treatment with quinine hydrochloride which had produced good results in experiments on guinea pigs. Symptoms of slight infection developed in twenty-four hours, but subsided, and she recovered entirely.

Queen Amélie of Portugal is performing the duties of a nurse at the London General Hospital, Wandsworth.

It is stated that garlic juice, known medicinally as *succusallii*, has been successfully used as an antiseptic in infected bullet wounds.

It does not injure the tissues. The wound is washed twice daily with one part garlic juice and four parts distilled water and wet dressings applied.

Thousands of women in England are working for the nation in many different vocations. They are beginning to be employed as army cooks. Hospitals which used to hold pronounced views against women doctors are now staffed entirely by women. Wages have risen and stenographers and typewriters who before the war earned \$5 a week can now command \$9.

Miss Alma Tadema, the secretary of the Polish Relief Fund, tells a sad story of conditions in Poland. In most of Galicia there is hardly a child under six years of age left alive. In the Austrian concentration camps, scarcely a single child under eight has survived. It is only through Switzerland that charity has been able to reach Poland. Thousands are kept alive solely by help received from England and America.

The rapidity with which wounded men are removed from the front to hospitals in England has impressed many observers. Large steamers, with accommodations for 1200 wounded, cross the English Channel constantly. A man injured in the morning may be under treatment in London within twelve hours.

The populace of Vilna was greatly moved when the bells of the churches were removed before the German occupation. Women and young boys kept watch all night, praying in the churches. The authorities explained that the bells were being removed to safety to prevent the invaders using them as material for guns and shells.

A Roman newspaper announces that the monument erected in Trent to the memory of Dante, considered a masterpiece of sculpture, has been demolished by the Austrians, in order to use the bronze for making cannon.

The Lord Mayor of London has issued an appeal for aid to starving Belgium. He says we are not yet half awake to the tragedy of Belgium. Even Mr. Hoover's wonderfully efficient neutral committee cannot feed a million and a half destitute people on less than ten cents a head per day. This amounts to \$1,092,850 per week.

The French are reported to have stationed parrots on the Eiffel Tower to give warning of the approach of aeroplanes. The birds bristle and scream when the machines approach, long before they can be detected by human outlooks.

Boy scouts and soldiers pick fruit given on trees by growers; this is canned by the ladies of St. Catherine's, Ontario, and shipped for the use of Canadian soldiers in hospitals in England and France.